

**North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers
Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2006 – Teleconference Call**

1. **Call to Order** – The Board of Directors of NDSPE met via teleconference on May 17, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. President Bruce Dockter called the meeting to order. Present by city were:

Bismarck: Gary Doerr, Kevin Nelson, Bruce Nelson, Michael Gunsch, Tom Neigum, Thomas Little, Cliff Keller and Mary Nelson
Fargo: Gregg Thielman and Eric Jones
Grand Forks: Bruce Dockter and Mark Lambrecht
Minot: Tom Atkinson

The Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

2. **Introductions**

3. **Adoption of the Agenda** –

Kevin Nelson added item 6.D. ND DOT Enterprise membership program.

Bruce Nelson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was seconded by Tom Atkinson and carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held April 6, 2006 in Bismarck were distributed via mail and reviewed.

Kevin Nelson moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. Motion was seconded by Tom Neigum and carried.

5. **Old Business** –

- a. **Status of Committee Appointments** - Gregg Thielman reported committee chairmen have been selected. The following people will serve as Chairmen, Awards-Brad Schmidt, Budget-Bruce Dockter, Constitution & Bylaws-Tom Atkinson, Education-Lawrence Woodbury, Publications-Don Andersen, Public Relations-Dale Heglund, Professional Relations-Dean Wieland, Legislative-Jerry Backes, Membership-Michael Gunsch, and Nominations-Bruce Dockter.

Gregg Thielman requested a list of officers from each of the chapters be forwarded to him.

- b. **Status of Board of Registration Nominee List** –

The letter has been sent to the Governor. The following names were listed according to the ballot selection from the NDSPE Annual meeting as follows:

1. Gene Jackson
2. Francis Ziegler
3. Roger Kluck

To date an appointment has not been made by the Governor.

- c. **Status Constitution & Bylaws Committee Amendments** – Tom Atkinson, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee has been matching up rules from NSPE that have been approved with NDSPE bylaws. Tom stated that the House of Delegate representative change seems to be the main change to be addressed. Kevin Nelson noted that only three

states have amended their Constitution & Bylaws. The House of Delegate representative is being appointed at Annual meetings by most states. National has eliminated their Constitution and adopted a bylaws form of governance allowing more flexibility. The committee will model NDSPE's governance similar to NSPE. A working copy will be drafted by the committee members and presented to the Board of Directors at the fall meeting in Carrington. The Board will review and make recommendations. Finally the final draft will be presented at the Annual meeting with notice of changes published at least 2 weeks before the Annual meeting.

Bruce Nelson moved that the Constitution & Bylaws committee set forth work towards a bylaw form of governance similar to that of NSPE. Motion seconded by Tom Little and carried.

- d. **NSPE House of Delegates Update** – Kevin Nelson reported that the NSPE Board of Directors met in April. Some states start with a 1-year term & others start with a 2-year term. North Dakota starts with a 2 year term. The NSPE Board of Directors decided to extend each term to conclude at the Annual meeting at the end of the preceding term. Therefore, the ND delegate will attend 3 NSPE Annual meetings instead of 2. NDSPE had cast a vote to support Bernie Berson as NSPE President Elect. There are two candidates for President Elect; Kevin Coulee from Florida and Ken Rigsby from Texas. Kevin Nelson requested that the Board review the qualifications of each of the individuals and let him know the wishes of NDSPE who they want to support before July 6th.

6. New Business –

- a. **2006 Annual Meeting Recap** – Tom Neigum, Annual Meeting Chair reported that overall the meeting went well. 3 years ago Chapter 3 lost \$1600 when they hosted the Annual meeting, this year their loss was about \$500. Registration numbers were in the low to mid 30's. Michael Gunsch stated the committee discussed what the registration fees should be, with the possibility of restructuring the meeting to open it up to other engineers. The registration fee would have to be increased to cover the cost of speakers, etc. Cliff Keller added the surveyors have good attendance at their Annual meeting because they offer a real bulk of PDH's. Cliff offered the idea of increasing the time of the NDSPE Annual meeting by one day and offer a full day of PDH's, it could be beneficial financially and could get people interested in the organization.
- b. **2007 Annual Meeting Update** – Mark Lambrecht reported that Chapter 1 has started discussion regarding the 2007 Annual meeting. Debbie Jacklitch, Jay Kleven and Mark Lambrecht will participate in the planning. The planning committee plans to emphasize PDH's and consider the format of the length of the meeting. The Board made the following recommendations to the planning committee; consider rearranging the meeting schedule to accommodate 1 day of PDH's, and consider the time of year the meeting is scheduled, consider the possibility of having the meeting in March. It was also suggested to the Board of Directors conduct the business meeting, and the general membership meeting be narrowed down to the election of officers and awards report followed by an evening banquet. Michael Gunsch suggested that all the reports be compiled in a booklet beforehand and any items are on a consent agenda if anything needs to be addressed. Report length could be limited to ½ page. Cliff Keller suggested utilizing the website for the reports. Tom Neigum suggested reserving the hotel early.
- c. **NSPE Annual Convention and Meeting-**
 - i. **Convention July 6-8, 2006** – The NSPE Annual meeting will be held in Boston. Gregg Theilman and Kevin Nelson will attend.

- ii. Governance 9-11 July 2006-** ND House of Delegate representative, Kevin Nelson will attend the governance session in Boston. Kevin explained that the House of Delegates is the planning body and the Board of Directors is the implementing body. Tom Atkinson wondered about will happen with the regions. Kevin explained that this will be discussed at the summer meeting in Boston, as of now some are staying in place.
- d. ND DOT Enterprise Membership Program** – Scott Zainhofsky spearheaded the conversation with the ND DOT to become an enterprise member. The DOT can't pay for their employee membership to an organization. Mississippi has made an arrangement with their DOT to provide PDH's to their employees for the cost of membership. NSPE will send a national officer to present the program to the DOT upon request by NDSPE. Kevin Nelson will pursue this with NSPE. Francis Ziegler expressed interest in the DOT obtaining enterprise membership. NDSPE could commit to ten hours of continuing education for example, Chapter 3 provides 5 hrs, active participation in the society earns 1 hour, and 4 hours could be obtained through PDH's provided at the Annual meetings. . A commitment from the state society and the chapters would be necessary to make this work. Bruce Nelson commented that DOT employees would be getting a benefit over other members; they would be bona fide members. Michael Gunsch added that the process needs to be thought about as far as charging the DOT x amount of money for specific individuals. Tom Little inquired whether or not this arrangement would be exclusive to the DOT or if all state employees would be eligible.

Tom Little moved to move forward with pursuing an Enterprise program with the NDDOT/State. Motion seconded by Michael Gunsch and carried.

7. **Other Business** – The end of September has tentatively been selected for the fall meeting in Carrington.
8. **Adjourn** –
Bruce Nelson moved that the meeting adjourn. Motion seconded by Kevin Nelson and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary B. Nelson
Executive Secretary

Er. Kevin G. Nelson, P.E.
Secretary-Treasurer

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